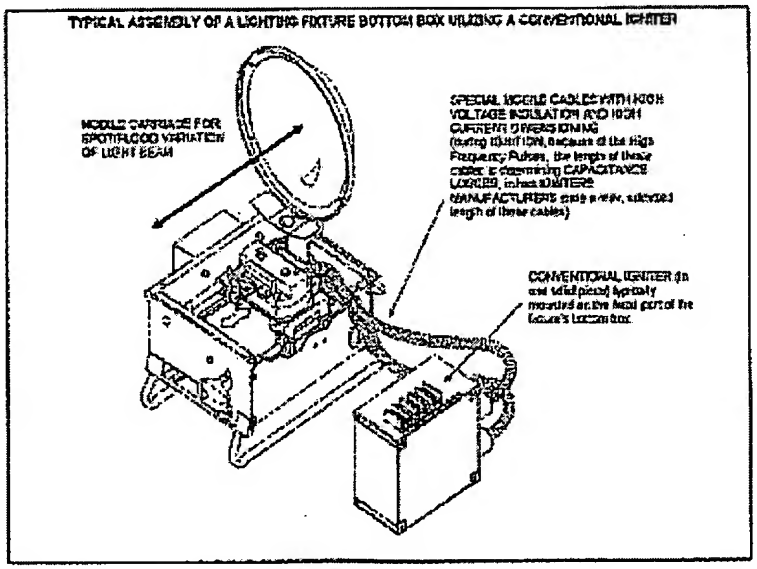
REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) Fig.2.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Applicants' invention is directed to a device for switching on and powering discharge lamps including a current limiting device, a square wave generator, an igniter, high tension connection cables and a lamp holder. The igniter includes at least one high tension transformer and an overlapping transformer. The igniter is divided into a first stage of the igniter or pulse generator transformer. The first igniter stage or pulse generator transformer and the high tension transformer are assembled along with the above mentioned components wherein the current limiting device module is connected by two reduced section cables. A current limiting device module and a first stage of the igniter are subjected to movement and/or traction.

On the other hand, from the AAPA reference, it is clear that the standard system utilized in the industry, before the Applicants' invention, relies on a single box containing a whole circuitry of the igniter fixed on the luminaire's fixed part as shown in the figure below.



However, the igniter according to the Applicants' invention is based on fixing, on the bottom box of the luminaire, only the first igniter stage. The first igniter stage generates only 6kW with a very low current (only a few milliamps) and only working for the duration of the lamp ignition, which averages about 1 second. The high voltage state of the igniter is assembled on the mobile carriage under the lamp holder in order to have very short high voltage cables, which are fixed, so that they do not represent a capacitance loss during the ignition. Therefore, the size of the igniter can be optimized such that the cables will not touch any moving part and will not be subjected to movement. Under these conditions, they will have a much longer life time and will not have the problems of the prior art igniters which very often causes the lighting fixtures not to start, and thus not to function.

Claims 8-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA Fig 2. in view of Elliott, U.S. Patent No. 4,414,491.

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

As claims 8-10 are dependent claims dependent on patentable independent claims, these claims are also patentable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully contend that the teachings of admitted prior art AAPA Fig. 2 does not anticipate the Applicants invention. Additionally, the admitted prior art in view of Elliott'491 does not render the Applicants' invention as obvious. Thus, claims 1-3 and 6-10 are considered to be patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record.

The application is now considered to be in condition of allowance and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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